

DRAFT

October 19, 2017

Objectives for a New Cable TV Franchise Agreement

The most important objective is that the new agreement be at least as favorable to the town as the agreement of 1989, which is still being honored although it expired in 2004. That means the new agreement should contain, at a minimum, the following:

- A specific commitment by Spectrum to maintain and upgrade the existing fiber optic cable network in Whitefield, which would be described by a map attached to the contract.
- Provisions for the prompt correction of service problems, either on a system or individual subscriber basis.
- Spectrum would at least continue its existing obligation to provide cable service where there is a population density of at least 15 households (“dwelling units”) per mile. Better would be 10 per mile.
- An obligation to consider creative alternative mechanisms for extending service in areas where density is below the agreed minimum, including financing packages or technological solutions.
- Spectrum should continue its existing obligation to provide the town with maps and documents regarding the system.
- Financial penalties for loss of service of more than 24 hours.
- A franchise fee provision as determined by the town. (Maine law allows up to 5 % on cable TV revenue but one is not required. Whitefield’s contract now calls for 3%.)
- Specific agreed provisions which would allow the town to cancel the contract.
- Explicit recognition of the possibility of a public/private partnership between the town and Spectrum in addressing the issue of extending service to areas which do not have it, including through grant applications.
- Spectrum agrees to provide contractual and technological services to Whitefield businesses, including home office businesses, on terms at least as favorable as those it provides to equivalent businesses anywhere in Maine.